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USE OF TRAINED INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS

SOURCE British Broadcasting Corporation

Attached are additional transcriptions of the Betty Granshaw "weekly letter" from Budapest, together with a station comment from the English-language broadcast of 12 December 1948 which may or may not be related to the Friday broadcasts.

Transcripts of subsequent broadcasts will be disseminated only upon request.

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Budapest in English at 1820, 26 November 1948

(Text)

Here is Betty Granshaw, a British girl studying in Hungary, to read you her weekly letter to her mother at home.

"Dear Mother, Thanks a lot for your last letter which arrived this morning. Four days for regular mail, not bad. It is funny that you should mention Christmas for just yesterday morning I had the same queer feeling when I caught sight of the first Xmas tree decorations in the shop windows, and wonder what Christmas away from home would be like. You need have no fear of my being lost and feeling alone during the Xmas holidays for whenever this subject crops up at home with the Kovacs, Mrs. Kovacs tells me in a warm voice that she is going to try her best to take your place.

"I am sure Xmas here will be filled with novel experiences for me. Still, I grant you the real thing is Xmas at home. Anyway, dear, let's try not getting sentimental about it; keep your chin up and I promise to write you detailed letters all about Xmas in Hungary. By the way, we had our first fall of snow last night. Nothing much to speak of, but it was exciting to see a thin layer of white when I looked out the window this morning.

"Oh, before I forget I must tell you all about the custom here of Santa Claus visiting the children laden with gifts on the eve of the 6th December. The 6th December is St. Nicholas Day, who was Bishop of Myra in Asia Minor long, long ago. Since he especially loved children, he is the patron saint of children. The legend says that he was in the habit of anonymously leaving presents on the window sills of houses of poor people. That is how it came about that every year, on the 6th December, the kids here put their shoes on the windowsills and Santa Claus, who looks much the same as ours, either comes to visit them in person or just leaves the presents on the sill. All the sweet shops are already decorated with chocolate and marzipan Santa Clauses of all sizes wrapped in red paper, wooden Santa Clauses on sleighs with sprouting bags on their backs, gilded birches with which Santa ... (the speaker appeared to stumble here and the sense is not quite clear -- Editor) ... (face?) the little devil, is supposed to give a whopping to naughty children, tied with ribbon with chocolates, sweets and biscuits hanging from them. I think the whole custom very charming.

"As for Xmas, unlike at home, it's not Santa Claus who brings the presents but little Jesus, and the gifts are laid beneath the tree which is lit for the first time on Christmas Eve and the presents are distributed then, instead of being laid at the foot of one's bed on Xmas morning.

"Yesterday, I was fortunate enough to meet some of the foreign delegates who have come to the second International Women's Congress which is being held here at present. Some of them were extremely interesting, including some very colorful delegates from all over Asia, - Viet Nam, India, China, Korea and the Asiatic Soviet Republics. I found that quite a number of them could speak English and I got to know quite a lot about their countries from the chats I had with some of them. It seems that they are having a sort of conference of their own before the Congress proper starts, because the Indian Government wouldn't let them hold an Asian women's conference at Calcutta. Their fight for freedom and equal rights must indeed be very hard. It is difficult for us to imagine how terrible must be the position of women in a country like Malaya, with troops -- British troops, at that -- burning villages to the ground and machine-gunning people from the air in case they are Communists. The Korean delegates, however, seemed somewhat more cheerful; in half their country at any rate, they say they have the people in power. As to the delegates of S.E. Asia, I was tremendously impressed by them. They were all university professors or leading politicians and administrators and they spoke with the cheerfulness and self-confidence that can surely come of a real sense of freedom. I am very much looking forward to meeting the British

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delegates when they come, especially as I once met Mrs. Worcester, who is heading the British delegation, when I went to meet John at Cambridge. He told me she manages to do housework and scientific research at the same time because she has built herself a proper little crystallographic laboratory in her kitchen.

"Emily wrote me the other day. She seems very happy indeed about her new job in Geneva. She also said that if all went well, she would try her best to squeeze in a visit to Budapest in the near future.

"That's all this week, Mum. My love to you all. Your daughter, Betty."

Budapest in English at 1820 EST, 3 December 1948.

(Text)

"Dear Mother, Thanks for your nice long letter and I am so glad to hear that Jim has a job at last.

"You were quite right in thinking that I am very enthusiastic and interested in the International Women's Congress and as I know that what you want is first-hand news, I am going to tell you all about it. A friend of mine who works for the Federation here took me along to Parliament building to listen to yesterday's session. But before I tell you about that, I must try and describe the torch-light procession which assembled in Parliament Square to welcome and greet the delegates on Wednesday evening. It was truly a magnificent sight and I was lucky in getting a good view of the steps of Parliament squeezed in among the delegates and proud and smiling Hungarian women. The weather was on our side, not very cold and no wind and by six thirty, the big Square was filled with thousands of women who came marching along carrying flaming torches and national and red flags and slogans. There must have been something like 30,000 of them. It was certainly an imposing and heart-warming sight.

"The delegates, women who have come from 55 different countries, -- from far off Asia, the Soviet Union, America and from all over Europe -- were greeted with enthusiastic shouts when they appeared on the steps of Parliament. One could hear 'Long Live the Soviet Union' from here, and 'Long Live the Gallant Women of Free Spain' from there and 'Long Live the Heroic Women of Liberated China' from another group. One could see that the delegates were very moved by the enthusiastic reception. They kept waving their hands, smiling and whispering to each other how wonderful it all was. I saw one Hungarian woman who was standing near some Mongolian and Chinese delegates fish a postcard and pencil out of her handbag and, making herself understood by signs, asked for autographs which were duly given in Chinese letters. She was absolutely thrilled.

"A speech was then delivered in Hungarian, then a short address by Mme. Cotton, that wonderful old lady, head of the French delegation. She looked so frail standing on the improvised platform but her voice was strong and firm and her words, which called the women of Hungary to fight for peace and the overthrow of imperialism in order to insure a better world for us and our children, met with loud cries of approval. Shouts of "We want Peace" echoed and re-echoed in that square from the throats of thousands of women so that you could feel in your bones that here were the women of a free people, voicing that which lay nearest their hearts.

"A member of the Soviet delegation then addressed the crowd, conveying the greetings of Soviet women to the women of Hungary, and speaking of the close ties of friendship which are increasingly bringing the women of the two nations closer to one another -- women united by the common bond of their love for peace. This was greeted by cries of "Long Live Stalin and the women of the Soviet People's Republic," shouts which lasted so long that the crowd had to be stilled several times in order to allow the speaker to continue with her address.

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"The third and last speaker was Mrs. Chai Chang, of China. As soon as her minute figure was visible on the platform, the crowd broke into uproarious cheers. She spoke of the hard and unrelenting fight which the women of China are waging to free their country from the yoke of imperialism and those who were preparing a new war.

"I know that it's difficult (to describe?) such a magnificent scene. I can only say you should have been here to see that flaming sea of torches and the tens of thousands of women shouting for Peace.

"Now to return to yesterday when I attended a session at Parliament. Mrs. Norah Wooster was one of the speakers who told the delegates of the fight of the working women of Britain for equal pay, for equal work; that they ardently wanted to free the country from the power of the American dollar and the war policies that their Government are pursuing. It was good to see the warm applause that our delegate received at this conference, as if the delegates of all countries felt and knew that she was one of them and with them.

"There were quite a few other addresses and speeches given, but the most forceful one of the day was delivered by the Soviet delegate, Mrs. Nina Popova, who replied to the address given by the Swedish delegate who'd requested the Federation to be more diplomatic in its propaganda. Well, Mrs. Popova certainly answered that one. I ask you what sort of propaganda is needed to make the working women of Sweden understand the horrors of imprisonment, torture, starvation, oppression and loss of life which are being endured so heroically by our sisters in Spain, Greece and China? These horrors and monstrous atrocities cannot be endured by us in silence; we will and must make them known to the world at large and fight for their abolition. What we want is not diplomatic language but the truth.

"Later on in her speech she proved by a wealth of facts that the dollar-bosses of America were out for another war, while the Soviet people wanted a lasting peace for the whole world.

"I certainly enjoyed this day in Parliament, and I hope that, before the Congress closes on the 6th, I'll have a chance of attending another procession. Mother dear, take good care of yourself, my love to all the family, a big kiss from your daughter, Betty."

Budapest in English at 1820 MST, 10 December 1948

(Text)

"Dear Mother, Thanks a lot for your letter and for the parcel of tea for (two words). She was thrilled as it is rather expensive here although it is to be had without difficulty. The chocolate bars were delicious, but I must ask you again not to deprive yourself of coupons on my account. You can get it off the ration here.

"I suppose my last letter with my account of the women's Congress reached you safely. Well to give you a complete picture I must tell of the grand finale. It was wonderful. Such a glorious spectacle to witness that words fail me. I was there in Parliament on the last day — Monday. Only very few speeches were delivered that day. It was mostly the resolutions which were read out. After one of the speeches delivered by a Hungarian delegate, calling upon women throughout the world to safeguard and fight for peace, the entire hall was rent with ringing and the applause was deafening, and around me I could see their eager, glowing and determined faces. Paper streamers were thrown down from the gallery and it added a spirit of festivity to their enthusiasm. I noticed quite a few of the women surreptitiously wiping away tears and especially the women from Asia, who had suffered and are suffering so much, seemed to be impressed and moved by this display which clearly showed them that their sisters in Europe and America have taken their cause to heart.

"The most moving moment of the Congress was at midday on Monday when Jeanette Verneersch read the manifesto adopted by the Congress, which declared that women throughout the world are a force to (heed?), that the fight against imperialism,

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which is dragging us into another war, must be waged successfully. In short, the resolution called for lasting peace and the safeguarding of that peace. This was greeted with tumultuous applause and cheers and, then for about half an hour the vast hall rang with the songs of liberty of the various countries. The Internationale was sung by one and all, each woman present singing it in her own tongue. Then came Russian songs, followed by Greek, Spanish, Hungarian, English and I don't know how many other songs. All was symbolic of the people's will to live in a free and peaceful world.

"I spoke with several of the delegates. One American girl said that the night before they had been to a festivity organized by one of the trade unions. There had been music of course and the girls began to dance, especially the French girls who started dancing a chain and singing. Well, during the dancing and merrymaking a Hungarian woman came up to this American girl and asked where she came from. On answering, she suddenly found herself in the Hungarian woman's arms who said, 'How happy I am -- you come from America and want peace. Tell them in America that we all want peace here.' Well, the American girl thought that her delegation would be able to do much for that cause by telling and writing of such personal experiences here upon their return to the States. She was a very charming person and I do hope she proves to be right. I heard that the delegates had left Budapest this morning and in the three days they had left they visited villages, country towns, factories and plants. I should have thought they would have been dead tired after their exhausting week, but all those I spoke with said that these personal contacts mean very much to them and they want to have as many personal experiences as possible to take back with them. Well, that's the end of the Congress and it's a pity to see it finished.

"Preparations for Christmas are going on apace here. Shop windows already all have a Christmas appearance decorated with fir trees, tinsel, Christmas tree decorations and so on. The shops look lovely -- absolutely stocked and prices not at all high. I'll be telling you some more about this next week, Mother, for I'm afraid I have another two hours of studying to do tonight. Oh, do you know what a group at the University are planning to do for the Christmas holidays? Rent a couple of rooms at a tourist club and go skiing in the hills nearby. The trip up won't take more than an hour and a half (few words indistinct) and we will certainly have plenty of fun and the exercise will do us no end of good. I'm looking forward to it tremendously and will pin our hopes on a good snowfall, of which unfortunately there is as yet no sign, though we have had a little already.

"Mother dear, my love to you all. Please make your next letter real Christmasy giving me all details to make up for my being away from you. Kisses from your loving daughter, Betty."

Budapest in English at 1820 EST, 12 December 1948.

(Text)

"Mrs. Margaret Evans of Southampton has written to us to say that she can hear our bulletin very well except for a certain amount of interference by the third program. She goes on to say how glad she is to hear that people in Hungary can buy most of the things they need at a reasonable price. Mrs. Evans seems to be having quite a lot of trouble doing her shopping for Christmas. She says that it is terribly difficult to buy everything she needs for Christmas. It is only when you go out to look for some very nice Christmas present that you realize how expensive and badly made the goods are. It seems that it is only the rich who can afford to give things for Christmas. (So after all I'll have to do without Christmas presents?)

"We in Hungary cannot agree with Mrs. Evans. It does not have to be like that. Christmas can be and must be a holiday for the working people and their children -- not just for the rich. In Hungary, too, the Christmas shopping season has been

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a happy hunting ground for speculators, wholesalers and capitalists. There was good business for some, misery and bitterness for others, but now it is no longer like that. This Christmas all Hungarian working people are going to have a real holiday they can enjoy. Before Hungary switched over to planned economy, presents here also used to go up sharply just before Christmas. This year they have gone down. Eggs are 15% cheaper, fats five per cent less, the price of pork went down by 15%, tinned foods are 25% cheaper, and apples, lemons and sugar are less than half the price they were last year. In the old days the goods became scarce towards Christmas, but now the Government has laid in tremendous stocks. Ten thousand pounds of cooking chocolate and 20,000 pounds of butter are just some of the items that have been put by for the Christmas holidays. While the Government owns the largest piggerys, three times as many pigs are to be slaughtered before Christmas than before. (one sentence indistinct) And so is it with many other goods. Clothes are also cheaper than in the last year and plentiful. The municipal stores are selling Christmas trees for five bob per tree. The railways are putting on special comfortable extra trains for the holiday. The working people of Hungary will have a good Christmas. They can buy more than they could buy at any Christmas and more important still their Christmas will be a Christmas of hope, of confidence, and of peace."

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